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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

T. ONO et al

Serial No. 08/979,810

Group Art Unit: 2761

Filed: November 25, 1997

Examiner: G. Morgan

For: ELECTRONIC COMMERCE SUPPORT

METHOD AND APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

A Continued Prosecution Application is being filed concurrently herewith.

Before examination on the merits, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claim 1, and add new claims 29-36 as follows:

1. (Amended) An electronic commerce support method for managing trading in a client connected to a server for providing electronic commerce services to receive the electronic commerce services, comprising the steps of:

transmitting an order for a product on the electronic commerce in response to an input by a user to said server through a communication network[,];

receiving trading information including an e-mail address, a trading identifier associated with said order and